

Health Equity Advisory Commission

Full Meeting 04/03/2023

Meeting Notes

Introductions/Present

Andrea Brett, Sara Chesbrough, Christine Hughes, Joanne Crawford, Xusana Davis, Kheya Ganguly, Mark Hughes, Monica Hutt, Ginger Irish, Lehana Guyette, Karen Noone, Sarah Launderville, Kimberly Pierce

Public Comment

- *Kimberly Pierce- primary care provider federal qualified health center*
- *ACES is her passion and that work*
- *Trauma informed world is the way to a more compassionate world*
- *Made couple of films on this topic embedding into medical practices*
- *Science- trauma is the cause, Post Traumatic Slavery System important to think of in the exam room*
- *Trauma is healable*
- *Trauma informed principles are the solution and puts the spirituality back into our healthcare system*
- *Rural poverty. Realized that the medical system ignores the societal issues.*
- *Connection between healers and trauma informed care, old family doctors that feels like we're losing that*
- *Trying to help put down the lens of today and look at relationships and love. How could this person be related to me. Created a brief intervention within a system that doesn't support the work that she was doing.*
- *Ended up the most rewarding things she's ever done and patients were being heard and seen and were getting better.*
- *Few weeks ago left primary care because wants to advocate patients in another way and wants to support and put energy into helping other providers how to learn a way that can easily integrate into the system*
- *Vermont Kindness Project*
- *Can teach anybody to do this system*
- *Made a film "The Faces of ACES" (now working on her forth film) and wants to bring this information to the Governor to have Vermont be the first trauma informed state.*
- <https://www.thevermontkindnessproject.org/>

Equity Break

Before next meeting think about: What is wellness to you?

Annual Report Review and Discussion

Mark and Kheya brought us through a high-level overview:

- *Health Equity Office*
- *Social Determinants of Health*
- *Page nine- Statewide policies and programs recommendations*
- *Each section quoted the law, recommendations and identified barriers to implementation*
- *Didn't focus as much on training because last report was focused on training*
- *Focused more on data and what it should look like to help us achieve health equity*
- *Terms "white" and "not white" and made recommendations*
- *List of general findings start on page 21*

Questions and Where do we go next?

- *Budget part and thinking about the funding we have and what funding do we need to stand up the office*
- *Page 10: "Funding and Grants" Charged with distributing grants to work on community-based projects.*
- *Reviewed the budget*
- *Recommendations- What do we do with ARPA funds? We haven't been able to do that work to date and we requested to come back in the future to address this and the commission should be mindful of this.*
- *Joint testimony in the coming week is really important*
- *Develop a consensus on the numbers and how we want to move forward.*
- *Xusana will confirm that the number carries over*
- *In addition to report and testimony- would like to see us thinking and engaging how we move this health equity work forward in a parallel way*
- *Ways to be influential in that arena*
- *Next meeting, maybe we can as a group start looking at some ideas too*
- *Clear consensus on that report and the numbers? Yes consensus to the budget.*

Committee Report out

- *Nothing new to report*

Preparing Testimony Group

- *On the calendar*

- *They've provided an hour to come back and talk about the report*
- *Organizing and creating a PowerPoint would be helpful (Xusana can help with the PowerPoint).*
- *Mark will testify but Kheya needs to check with her position*
- *Sarah Launderville volunteered to help with the testimony*
- *Equity 9-10 really hard – plug for zoom testimony or other alternatives*
- *Ginger is willing to help with testimony prep and can help with taking notes as well*
- *Andrea Brett could do remotely*
- *Christine Hughes volunteered*
- *Kimberly Pierce volunteered too (if that could be helpful)*
- *Mark leading the charge and put something on the books*
- *Kirsten Murphy volunteered*

Housekeeping/Thoughts/Ideas

- *Struggling with attendance*
- *Time still working for people? Better time?*
- *Meet people where they're at and get out the door and meet at community centers, organizations, etc. meet with other councils/commissions that are already formed*
- *Link in the chat to where we can find the minutes that are publicly posted to make it easier to share with people*
- *Richard Kemp center- keep on the list of locations*
- *Meeting times- choice between work and this meeting, can be challenging*
- *Kheya happy to connect with space (LGBTQ community)*
- *VCIL can offer up some office space as well (Montpelier, Bennington and Brattleboro)*
- *Come up with a list of suggestions of places to get out to and then decide from there*
- *Lehana can talk to Topper about GMSA and maybe the Workers Center in Burlington*
- *Want to make sure that it's broader than just Burlington*
- *Other places we want to suggest then send to Kheya*